

Issue: November 2007



THE SEAELK TIMES

Inside this Issue:

CO's Corner	1
Mailing Addresses	1
Deployment Links and Resources	1
SgtMaj	
Sounds Off	2
Message from the XO	2
Department of Safety and Standardization	3
Operations Department	3
S-1 Admin	3
S-4 Support	4
Promotions & Awards	4
Maintenance Department	5
A Word from the FRO	5
Resources & Happenings	5-6
Devil Pups Corner	7
Miramar MCCA	
Directory	8

IMPORTANT DATES: November:

5th – HMM-166(REIN) - deploys

10th - Marine Corps Birthday

11th - HMM-166 (REIN) Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner @ LINKS house- 4pm-6pm

22nd - Thanksgiving Day

HMM-166 (REIN) Marine Corps Air Station Miramar



CO's Corner

Greetings,

Another milestone reached as this will be the last newsletter sent from the states.

Our Certification Exercise (CERTEx) went extremely well. One comment that I heard was something to the effect that HMM-166 (Rein) may be the best ACE in 10 years. That would include 20+ units. Nobody has to tell me that.

Let me emphasize one more time for everyone to stay in touch with your Key Volunteer while we are deployed and keep them updated of any changes to your contact information. This includes if you travel during the Christmas Holiday.

Your Marines are extremely well trained. The NCOs and Staff NCOs who lead them are second to none in my 20 years in the Corps. May God Bless and keep you all in our absence.

Mailing Addresses:

PERSONAL MAIL

GRADE NAME USMC
HMM 166 (SECTION)
UNIT 41081
FPO AP 96610-1081

OFFICIAL MAIL

COMMANDING OFFICER
ATTN (SECTION, TITLE OR NAME)
HMM 166
UNIT 41081
FPO AP 96610-1081

Deployment Links and Resources:

Official 11th MEU Website: www.usmc.mil/11thmeu

Squadron Website: www.usmc.mil/11thmeu/hmm166web/ace.html

Free Calling Cards: www.operationuplink.org

USS Tarawa Care Line: 619-685-2846 - information from the ship

US Postal Service: 1-800-275-8777 (Military Pack) – To order free shipping supplies for deployed military family members



SgtMaj Sounds Off:

SeaElk Family,

10 November 1921 marked the first formal commemoration of the birthday of the Marine Corps as 10 November. On 21 October 1921, Major Edwin McClellan, OIC of the Historical Section, HQMC, sent a memo to Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday of 10 November 1775 be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps. Accordingly, on 1 November 1921, General Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47 summarizing the history, mission, and traditions of the Marine Corps, and directed that it be read to every command each 10 November. Happy Birthday and Semper Fi!!

HMM-166 now is underway, pressing forward to provide support whenever and where ever needed. The Marines are well trained and capable of accomplishing any given mission. As always, leaving our love ones is never an easy thing to do but a requirement based on mission. We also realize that while we are away, our spouses assume both roles in the household. We can never thank our families enough for all of their sacrifices and dedication. The support of family and friends strengthens the morale of deployed Marines and with the home front in order; the Marines are able to focus on completing their mission and returning home safely. Happy Thanksgiving!

Semper Fidelis,
SgtMaj C. M. Harrell

Message from the XO:



Marines and Family Members of HMM-166 (REIN),

Thank you for all the hard work and time apart during this long work-up period. Our last at sea period was the squadron's certification exercise and HMM-166 (REIN) excelled. I roomed with the Senior Air Combat Element (ACE) evaluator and he was thoroughly impressed with the professionalism and execution of every SeaElk.

I hope you were all able to enjoy some much needed leave to relax (a little) and take care of those last minute issues to ensure a successful deployment for you and your family.

By the time you receive this, we will be underway. Please remember that if you need anything to contact our Key Volunteer Network and they will be able to steer you in the right direction. Also, visit the 11th MEU website at www.usmc.mil/11thmeu or the squadron website at www.usmc.mil/11thmeu/hmm166web/ace.html for up to date information on what your loved ones are up to. The squadron website is up and running and will be updated the first week of deployment. Don't forget the booklets that were handed out during the pre-deployment brief. There is a lot of great information in there as well.

Know that, despite the great distance separating us and uncertainty in our assigned mission, the command will exhaust every available means to keep you up to date on the welfare of your loved ones throughout the deployment.

Although we still do not have definitive word on what we will be called on to do, or where we will be going, rest assured your Marines and Sailors are prepared. Thanks again for your dedication and sacrifice. Mission First, Marines Always.

Semper Fi,
LtCol Shawn W. McKee
Executive Officer HMM-166 (REIN)

Department of Safety and Standardization:

The Department of Safety and Standardization extends congratulations to all HMM-166 (REIN) and their families on the accomplishment of a safe and successful pre-deployment work-up period. With the squadron packed up and the Marines underway, all of the SeaElk families left tending the home front need to continue to keep personal safety in mind while your love ones are away. Personal security should be at the forefront of your thoughts while your Marine is away. Keep in mind that criminals might find your Marine's absence makes your household a more attractive target for them. Don't allow this information to fall into their hands. There is no reason to broadcast the fact that you have a family member deployed unless you are dealing with official entities from the squadron or the Marine Corps. You can be proud of your deployed Marine or Sailor; just don't let everyone know that your home defenses are down by one.

As always, keep common sense as your guide in your daily activities: Think About It.

Operations Department:

HMM-166 (REIN) wrapped up its work-up training at the beginning of October. During the 11th MEU's CERTEX, the ACE was tasked with multiple missions varying from a long range raid into NTC Ft Irwin to VBSS off the coast of Southern California. On 11 October the squadron returned to MCAS Miramar. As part of the squadron conducted pre-deployment leave, the rest of the squadron conducted business as usual, primarily focusing on getting the aircraft ready for deployment.

On the 21st of October Southern California was threatened with multiple forest fires from the Mexican border up to Malibu. The hot, dry, windy weather caused the fires to grow in size and they began to threaten homes in San Diego area. Many Marines and their families were forced to evacuate throughout the following week as the fire spread. HMM-166 (REIN) finally got the call to help fight the fires and one CH-53E and one CH-46E worked with the National Guard in this endeavor.

During the last week of October the squadron cleaned out its spaces and got the aircraft ready to fly onto the USS Tarawa at 32nd street Naval Base. The squadron spent their final days at home moving their gear onto the ship and spending time with their families.

S-1 Administration:

Hello SeaElk families. Even though we have worked up for this deployment for the entire summer, there are a couple personal financial and administrative issues I simply never got around to dealing with. I am sure there are others who are in the same boat with me.

Now that we have deployed, as an administrative shop, we are still available to assist Marines and your families with administrative issues. GySgt Huerta will be staying back for a few weeks and will be in a unique position if needed.

While deployed, we hope to use the internet to keep everyone informed of current issues and post relevant information. The squadron's MEU website will soon be updated and we will post "hot ticket" items as well as the monthly Family Newsletter.

I want to thank everyone for the hard work during the summer and wish families the best during our absence. If there are any issues we can assist with, feel free to ask. Enjoy the fall season; Happy Thanksgiving!

Maj Andrew P. Albano
HMM-166 (Rein) Administrative Officer

S-4 SUPPORT:

The S-4 shop has been extremely busy these last few months. The shop has been tasked with embarking and debarking all of the squadron's equipment and people to and from the ship during the work-up periods. During the three at sea periods, the S-4 shop was able to move over 400 people to and from the ship by surface and air assets. At the same time the shop was also embarking the majority of the squadron's gear on the ship which is no small task. As we prepare to deploy the S-4 shop has been responsible for packing up the squadron space and moving our assets to a warehouse on base. There have been many long days and hundreds of man hours spent preparing for this deployment by the S-4 shop, but due to the excellent work by the Marines, the squadron is very well prepared to "head west" and accomplish our mission.

Promotions and Awards:

November:

Promotions:

GySgt: Rolfe
Sgt: McCrea, Tippey, Villaneda
Cpl: Richardson
Lcpl: Livingston, Perry

Rescue Citation:

Maj Ciucocoli
1stLt Demars
Cpl Ansbach

Meritorious Mast:

Lcpl Vargas

Good Conduct Medal:

Lcpl Garner
Lcpl Force
Lcpl Ridlen

1000 Hours of Flying:

Maj Casler
SSgt Ingle



MAINTENANCE:

FLIGHTLINE:

Flight line continued to perform at the highest level throughout the 3rd at sea period, once again providing healthy aircraft for the squadron. The shop is well prepared for the deployment and whatever destination lies ahead.

A WORD FROM THE FRO:

Months and months of anticipation and preparation are over, the time has finally come and we've deploying. Hopefully none of us are feeling a sense of panic or distress because our families aren't ready for the next 6 to 9 months of separation. The squadron will continue to support the families in any way possible however with the ever increasing time difference we will be experiencing it will be more and more challenging. There are many resources out there to support all of us during the deployment and the biggest is the Key Volunteer Network. They are all trained by the Marine Corps to help you find the help you need please don't take them for granted or forget about them because they are a vital link in passing information to all of our families. Keep in touch with your Key Volunteer and let them know anytime you might be away from home for an extended period of time. They need to know how to get in touch with you while you are away from home. They will call each family on a monthly basis to make sure there aren't any issues but they will also be able to provide information about activities geared for families and about the deployment.

Resources and Happenings:



Hello families of HMM-166(REIN),

The Key Volunteer Network is looking for a few good spouses! If you are interested in becoming a Key Volunteer or learning more about the Key Volunteer Network just call your KV or me the KVC at (858) 277-1781. The next KVN meeting will be Nov 11^h 2pm at the LINKS house just before the Thanksgiving Potluck on Miramar, please come and join us.

Thank You,
HMM-166(REIN) KVC

What is L.I.N.K.S. and why should I attend?

L.I.N.K.S. is a class given *by spouses for spouses*, and is geared toward helping those new to the Marine Corps way of life. Even so, it doesn't matter whether you've been married to your Marine for two days or 20 years— there's always something new to learn. Our volunteer mentors share information on navigating the maze of life in the Marine Corps in a fun one-day or three-evening session. Because living the Marine Corps lifestyle is like a journey, each participant goes home with a tote bag filled to the brim with materials to help make the trip a little easier. Take a look below for more information on what's covered at L.I.N.K.S.!

Next Session is
Saturday, December 8, 2007
From 9:00am-4:00pm
At the L.I.N.K.S. House

To register, please call (858) 577-4810
angela.seus@usmc.mil
Child Care provided

Are you controlling your money or is your money controlling you?

One of the greatest satisfactions in life is having a sense of control over your finances. Through careful planning and use of money management techniques that anyone can learn, a family can feel more confident about its ability to live within its means, reduce debt, handle emergencies and save for the future. Understanding how to manage money and developing the discipline to do it well can make a real difference in your life.

Through private counseling, the Financial Management Counselor at the Marine Corps Community Services will help you take six basic steps to Successful Money Management.

Learn how to for free:

- Assess your current financial situation
- Develop a spending plan & tracking system
- Balance your checkbook
- Manage Debt
- Take charge of credit
- Set financial goals

For Additional Information: Call Craig Hughes

Financial Management Counselor (858) 577-9802

Family Member Employment

(858) 577-6491 • Bldg. 8456 •

Mon-Fri (7am-3:30pm)

Marines are always guaranteed a job, but the same can't be said about their family members. Family Member Employment Assistance is a specialized program open to all authorized MCCS patrons that focuses on finding employment and career options for the spouses and children of military personnel and DOD employees

Deployment Support

The Deployment Support Groups for Children and Teens meet weekly at The Teen Center bldg 2246 in the Part Day Preschool Room.

Please call Patti for more information at 858-437-7841

Grades K-2 Mondays 3:15-4pm

Middle Schoolers Mondays 4:15-5pm

Preschoolers Tuesdays 2-2:45 pm

Grades 3-5 Tuesdays 3:15-4pm

Preschoolers Wednesday 2:30pm-3:15pm

Grades K-2 Wednesday 3:45-4:30pm

The Spouses Deployment Support Group meets Fridays at the L.I.N.K.S. House. Groups meet from 10:00-11:00am and 12:00-1:00pm. Childcare is available at the Youth Center. To sign up for childcare please call 858-577-1322.

Special Offer:

Families of Deployed Service Members

SONY is sponsoring a videotaped message from you to your deployed Marine. SONY will record a private message, burn it to DVD, and give you a mailer to send it. You are invited ranks. This event is not limited to spouses, family members of single Marines are welcome to attend. (AS A SPECIAL GIFT, SONY WILL GIVE AWAY A DVD RECORDING SYSTEM TO ONE

OF THE PARTICIPANTS)

MCAS Miramar Bldg 2273

Thursday, November 8, 2007 - 10:00am - 7:00pm

To make an appointment, please call

(858)577-481 or email: angela.seus@usmc.mil

Children Youth & Teen Programs

Parent's Night Out 858-577-4136

****ADDITIONAL NIGHTS ADDED****

From 4:30pm-11:30pm at the Youth Center

Nov 17

Nov 24

Dec 15

Dec 22

Reservations can be made on the 1st Monday of the month prior to the parent's night out.

Upcoming USO Events

Thanksgiving Dinner – Thursday, November 22nd 11AM-2PM

Location: USO Downtown Center (303 A Street, Suite 100 San Diego Ca 92101)

Info: Thanksgiving Meal

Free and open to military and their dependents.

Holiday Concert – Saturday, December 1st at 2:00PM

Location: Civic Theatre (1100 Third Avenue San Diego Ca 92101)

Info: Holiday concert hosted by USO San Diego with music by Marine Band San Diego and special guest appearance by Santa Claus – concert will also feature a special rendition of "Twas the Night before Christmas".

Free and open to the public.

Santa Store – Tuesday, December 4th & Thursday, December 6th 5:00-8:00PM

Location: USO Downtown Center (303 A Street, Suite 100 San Diego Ca 92101)

Info: Children (ages 4-10) will pick out a gift for their mother and father or guardians, get to visit with Santa and also get to have dinner! Parents must register their children to attend this event – registration will open for this event in a few weeks – notification will go out via email the morning registration opens.

Free and open to military families with children ages 4-10.

USO San Diego 8K/5K Run – Saturday, December 8th at 8:00AM

Location: MCAS Miramar

Info: USO San Diego's Annual Run which features an 8K and 5K course for adults along with a 1K Candy Cane Stroll for the kids! This event is also a drop-off location for the Toys for Tots holiday toy drive.

Open to the public – event entry fees vary by age and category.

You may register for this event at: www.usosandiego.org

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## Devil Pups Corner:



### HMM-166(REIN) Pre-Thanksgiving Family Pot-luck Dinner

**Sunday, November 11, 4:00PM to 6:00PM @ LINKS House MCAS Miramar Building # 2273, San Diego, CA US**

Join the Key Volunteers of HMM-166 (REIN) for an early Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey will be provided; we ask that you bring a side dish to share such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberries, stuffing, vegetables, your family favorite or a beverage. An evite was sent out earlier. If you didn't receive the evite, but want to attend please contact your KV. When you RSVP please include what you are planning to bring to ensure a variety. We will have a craft and some games for the kids and cake to celebrate the Marine Corps birthday for everyone. Please RSPV by **Wednesday November 7, 2007**, to ensure we have enough chairs for everyone.

## Operation Kid Comfort

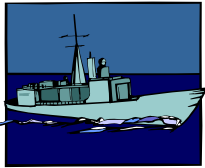
Operation Kid Comfort Quilts are for children of deployed service men and women. To receive a quilt, please submit the completed form along with nine photographs per child [in email, CD or regular pictures] that will help the child cope during the parent's deployment. As all materials and services are donated, there is no fee for this program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: <http://www.militaryymca.org/content/view/25/51/>

### Emotional Benefits

- **Reduces a child's anxiety and stress about parent's absence.**
- **Opportunity for meaningful communication between parent and child.**

## UNITED THROUGH READING® Update



Amid the clangs, whistles, and other customary sounds you would expect onboard the **USS Tarawa**; a new sound is being heard. It is the sound of Marines reading to their children though they are thousands of miles away. The **USS Tarawa** is participating in United Through Reading, which provides deployed Active Duty personnel the opportunity to read stories aloud on videotape to the special children in their lives back home.

### Educational Benefits

- **Studies prove that the most important thing adults can do in preparing young children for success in school is to read aloud with them.**

Marines either select a book from the ship's onboard library or read a book they have packed with them. They are videotaped reading the book, and then the tape (and book if owned by the Marine) is sent home to the child who can watch and follow along with a copy of the book. One of the best parts of this program is the opportunity for your child to view the tape over and over again. According to research, reading aloud has been shown to be the single best predictor in a child's future academic success. Encourage your Marine to participate in United Through Reading and bring their face and voice into your home even when they can't be there. Share with your **United Through Reading Homefront coordinator Vanessa Lee** your family's reactions to your first video!

## YOUTH CENTER

The Youth Center has something for everyone under 18: The Part Day Preschool Program for 3 to 5 year olds, the School Age Care Program for 5 to 12 year olds, the Teen Center for 12 to 17 year olds, and the Youth Program that offers sports teams and other specialized programs for kids of all ages. The Youth Center has recently been re-accredited by the National Afterschool Association for the Education.

**(858) 577-4136 • Bldg. 2247**

**Mon-Fri (6:30am-6pm) / Sat (Open for Special Events) / Sun (Closed)**

**MCCS Miramar Directory:****Important Numbers:**

**Base Information:**.....(858) 577-1011  
**ID Cards:**.....(858) 577-1421  
**American Red Cross:**.....(619) 542-7400  
**Navy-Marine Corps Relief:**  
 .....(858) 577-1801  
**TRICARE:**.....(888) TRIWEST  
**TRICARE Dental:**.....(800) 866-8499

**MCCS Facilities:**

**Administration**  
 Bldg. 2273.....577-4099  
**Athletics**  
 Bldg. 2471.....577-4127  
**Auto Hobby Shop**  
 Bldg. 6673.....577-1215  
**Auto Resale lot.** . . . . .577-1215  
**Big Bear Recreational Facility**  
 Big Bear. . . . . (909) 866-3965 Reservations. .  
 . . . 577-4126/4141  
**Bowling Center**  
 Bldg. 2525.....577-4131  
**Career Resource Center**  
 Bldg. 5305.....577-6491  
**Catering (Officers' Club)**  
 Bldg. 4472.....577-4814  
**Counseling Center**  
 Bldg. 2274.....577-6585  
**Education Center**  
 Bldg. 5305.....577-1801  
**Enlisted Club**  
 Bldg. 5509.....693-1524  
**Enlisted Recreation Center**  
 The Great Escape  
 Bldg. 5509.....577-6171  
**Entertainment Ticket Office**  
 Bldg. 2524.....577-4126/4141  
**Entertainment Tickets Limited**  
 Bldg. 2660 (MCX).....536-8257  
**Equipment Rental**  
 Outdoor Adventure Center  
 Bldg. 6673.....577-4150  
**Fish Pond** .....577-4150  
 Pless Avenue near west gate  
**Fitness Center (Main)**  
 Miramar Sports Complex  
 Bldg. 2471.....577-4128  
**Fitness Center (New)**  
 Semper Fit Center  
 Bldg. 2002.....577-4654  
**Fitness Center (Annex)**  
 The Barn  
 Bldg. 7115.....577-6042

**Travel**  
 Bldg. 2524.....578-3049  
**Library**  
 Bldg. 5305.....577-1261  
**Miramar Inn**  
 Bldg. 2516.....271-7111  
**Museum**  
 Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum  
 Bldg. T4203.....693-1723  
**Officers' Club**  
 Bldg. 4472.....577-4808  
**Park Reservations (Mills Park & Youth Sports Complex)**  
 Reservations .....577-4099  
**Relocation Office**  
 Bldg. 2258.....577-1428

**Sports & Aquatics Office**  
 Bldg. 2471.....577-1202  
**Stables**  
 East Miramar . . . . .577-4139  
**Staff NCO Club**  
 Bldg. 5509.....577-4829  
**Swimming Pools**  
 WST Pool. . . . .577-4137/4140  
 Officers' Pool.....577-4154  
**Theater**  
 Bldg. 2242.....577-4143  
 Reservations .....577-4099  
**Vehicle Storage.** . . . . .577-4150  
**Veterinary Clinic**  
 Bldg. 6248.....577-6552  
**Youth/Teen Center**  
 Bldg. 2247.....577-4136

**MCCS Programs:**

**Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO)**  
 Chapel.....577-1333  
**Drug Demand Reduction/ Prevention Program**  
 Bldg. 2274 . . . . .577-4411/7285  
**Exceptional Family Member Program**  
 Bldg. 2274.....577-9807

**Family Counseling**  
 Bldg. 2274.....577-6585  
**Health Promotion Office**  
 Bldg. 2273 . . . . .577-1331/7963  
**Information and Referral**  
 Bldg. 2274.....577-8644  
**Key Volunteer Network (KVN)**  
 Bldg. 2273.....577-1322  
**Lifestyle, Insight, Network, Knowledge and Skills (L.I.N.K.S.)**  
 Bldg. 2273.....577-4810  
**New Parent Support Program**  
 Bldg. 2274.....577-9812  
**Personal Financial Management**  
 Bldg. 2274.....577-9802

**Miramar Exchange:*****Main Store Complex***

**Bldg. 2660**  
 Operator.....695-7288  
 Recording.....695-7200  
**Barber Shop**.....695-7260  
**Beauty Salon.** . . . . .695-7227  
**Custom Services**.....695-7241  
**Florist** . . . . .695-7242  
**Laundry/Dry Cleaners.** . 695-7238  
**Optical Shop.** . . . . .695-7264  
**Optometrist**.....695-7276

***Tailor/Cobbler Shop***

Bldg. 6275.....695-7283  
**Uniform Center**  
 Bldg. 6275.....695-7363  
**Video Rentals**  
 Bldg. 5638.....695-7209

***Automotive Service Center Bldg. 6214***

**Administration.** . .695-7251/7252  
**Auto Accessory Store** .695-7254  
**Auto Repairs.** . . .695-7255/7385  
**Budget Truck Rental**.....695-7847